

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES OCTOBER 2003



**READER NOTE:** The October, November and December editions of the regional *Workforce Observations* will be the last editions to be printed in hardcopy and mailed by the Department of Workforce Development. Future editions will be placed on our website at [http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/wda/wo\\_pubs.htm](http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/wda/wo_pubs.htm) as they are currently posted here. One may sign up for monthly notification of publication updates via e-mail from this webpage. Please contact your local labor market analyst/economist if you have any questions.

**Walworth County's** September unemployment rate was 3.7%. September's rate was three-tenths of a percentage point lower than August's and two-tenths of a point lower than September 2002. This is the lowest unemployment rate registered for Walworth County in 2003. This was also the second month of this year to have an unemployment rate below four percent. Monthly labor force composition shows 820 more employed residents and 170 fewer unemployed. The pattern of more residents employed and fewer unemployed is repeated from an annual perspective as well.

Walworth's industry employment showed a net gain of 800 jobs in September, which is a larger monthly gain than has been usual in the past couple of years for this month. The net gain was a result of a 1,800-job gain in government employment, which is a reflection of the local school districts and UW-Whitewater coming back into session. Leisure and hospitality employment showed a seasonal loss of 600 jobs over the month as is expected this time of year.

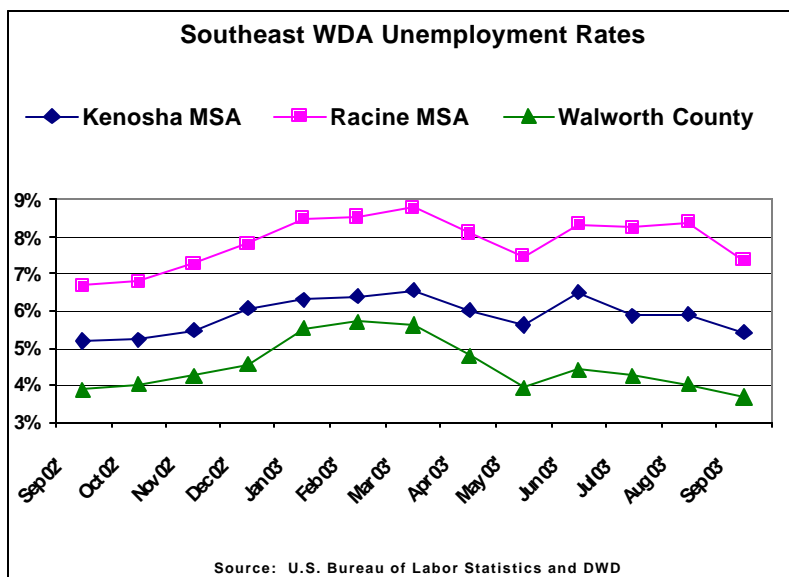
Annually, Walworth shows 400 fewer jobs, overall, with government employment showing the largest annual deficit of 500 jobs. Manufacturing employment (-300 jobs) and professional and business services (-400 jobs) also lead the county in annual job loss. Education and health services and leisure and hospitality industries combined for 900 more jobs, annually, as these are growth industries in Wisconsin.

The **Racine MSA** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) in September was 7.4 percent; one percent point lower than August's rate, yet higher than September 2002 by seven-tenths of a percentage point. The monthly drop in rate is quite typical in nature, though the unemployment rate remains higher than usual for this month. Racine showed the largest

monthly drop in unemployment rate in the region, but still shows the highest regional rate.

Racine's employment by industry shows varying perspectives of growth as goods-producing sectors increased and services-providing sectors decreased over the month. September data shows a net loss of 400 jobs despite a 200 job gain in manufacturing employment. Employment losses were also seen in professional and business services (-400 jobs), leisure and hospitality (-300 jobs), and construction employment. Transportation employment has increased slightly in response to the beginning of the new school year and the need for bus drivers.

Racine's industries showed the largest annual gain, regionally, in employment having 1,000 more jobs overall since last September. Retail trade and education and health services employment showed the largest gains, 600 jobs each. Manufacturing employment gained 100 jobs compared to last September.



The **Kenosha MSA** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) registered 5.4 percent in September. This is lower than August's rate by five-tenths of a percentage point, but is higher than last September's clip by two-tenths of a point.

Kenosha MSA industry figures show a net monthly employment loss of 400 jobs. Construction and manufacturing employment were unchanged over the month. Retail trade and leisure and hospitality showed seasonal losses. Annually, employment rose by two hundred jobs, net. Retail trade shows the largest annual gain (+700 jobs), while manufacturing and government employment showed the biggest annual losses (-300 jobs, each). Remaining industry employment was flat over the year. Services-providing industries grew by 500 jobs and goods-producing industries contracted by 300 jobs.

September 2003	Wisconsin	Kenosha County/MSA	Racine County/MSA	Walworth County	Southeast WDA	City of Kenosha	City of Racine
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	3,087,178	85,083	96,383	56,819	238,285	50,324	40,289
Persons Employed	2,936,410	80,491	89,278	54,735	224,504	47,066	35,683
Persons Unemployed	150,768	4,592	7,105	2,084	13,781	3,258	4,606
Unemployment Rate	4.9%	5.4%	7.4%	3.7%	5.8%	6.5%	11.4%
<b>Total jobs in all non-farm industries** (thousands)</b>	2,788.1	54.4	81.1	42.8	178.3		
<b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>	641.8	12.9	24.4	10.4	47.7		
<b>Service Producing Jobs</b>	2,146.3	41.5	56.7	32.4	130.6		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	127.7	2.4	4.2	2.0	8.6		
All Manufacturing	514.1	10.5	20.2	8.5	39.2		
Total Trade	436.4	9.4	12.9	5.1	27.4		
Wholesale Trade	118.5	2.0	3.1	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	317.9	7.4	9.8	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	105.7	1.6	1.8	1.3	4.7		
Financial Activities	158.7	1.7	2.6	1.0	5.3		
Education and Health Services	366.5	7.6	10.6	4.2	22.4		
Leisure & Hospitality	248.4	6.1	6.2	8.5	20.8		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	434.6	6.3	12.2	4.6	23.1		
Information	50.5	0.4	0.8	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	247.7	3.2	6.6	xx	xx		
Other Services	136.4	2.7	4.8	xx	xx		
All Government	396.0	8.8	10.4	7.8	27.0		
<b>Change from August 2003</b>							
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	-44,710	-1,130	-1,890	640	-2,370	-760	-1,300
Persons Employed	-25,310	-610	-750	820	-540	-350	-300
Persons Unemployed	-19,400	-520	-1,130	-170	-1,830	-400	-1,000
Unemployment Rate	-0.5%	-0.5%	-1.0%	-0.3%	-0.7%	-0.7%	-2.1%
<b>Total jobs in all non-farm industries** (thousands)</b>	-10.4	-0.4	-0.4	0.8	0.0		
<b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>	-10.3	0.0	0.1	-0.2	-0.1		
<b>Service Producing Jobs</b>	-0.1	-0.4	-0.5	1.0	0.1		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-3.4	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2		
All Manufacturing	-6.9	0.0	0.2	-0.1	0.1		
Total Trade	-5.6	-0.3	0.0	-0.1	-0.4		
Wholesale Trade	-0.5	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	-5.1	-0.3	0.0	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3		
Financial Activities	-0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1		
Education and Health Services	2.9	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.5		
Leisure & Hospitality	-13.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.6	-1.3		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	-3.6	-0.2	-0.5	-0.1	-0.8		
Information	-0.4	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	-1.1	-0.1	-0.4	xx	xx		
Other Services	-2.1	-0.1	-0.1	xx	xx		
All Government	18.6	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.8		
<b>Change from September 2002</b>							
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	78,960	2,940	4,270	840	8,050	1,760	1,760
Persons Employed	66,590	2,610	3,330	920	6,850	1,520	1,330
Persons Unemployed	12,370	340	940	-80	1,200	230	430
Unemployment Rate	0.3%	0.2%	0.7%	-0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.6%
<b>Total jobs in all non-farm industries** (thousands)</b>	-5.5	0.2	1.0	-0.4	0.8		
<b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>	-24.8	-0.3	0.1	-0.3	-0.5		
<b>Service Producing Jobs</b>	19.3	0.5	0.9	-0.1	1.3		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-7.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
All Manufacturing	-16.8	-0.3	0.1	-0.3	-0.5		
Total Trade	6.6	0.8	0.6	-0.2	1.2		
Wholesale Trade	3.4	0.1	0.1	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	3.2	0.7	0.6	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-0.7	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	-0.2		
Financial Activities	5.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3		
Education and Health Services	8.2	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.8		
Leisure & Hospitality	1.9	0.0	-0.2	0.6	0.5		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	5.7	0.0	0.2	-0.4	-0.3		
Information	0.0	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	3.5	0.0	0.1	xx	xx		
Other Services	2.2	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
All Government	-7.5	-0.3	-0.2	-0.5	-1.0		

\* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. \*\*Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates. Industry employment figures are in thousands and are rounded. "XX" indicates that data is suppressed and has been aggregated with other industries. **Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total**

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